(x) Accredition centres should be setup/augmented for certification of instruments conforming to international norms like ISO, CE, UL and QS etc.

(xi) Government should establish some centres of excellence in electronics and encourage the industry to use them.

(xii) Academies and science administrators should give due credit to instrumentation scientists in promotions, awards and election to Fellowships.

(xiii) The S&T institutions may help to upgrade the skills, knowledge and technical manpower in industry by organizing short-term course, seminars, etc.

(xiv) Some Indian universities may start multidisciplinary course involving S&T and business management and also take steps to produce manpower required for particular skills needed by the industry. Similarly the industry may do more for training of students at their plants, as this hands-on training will be an important step to develop entrepreneurial skills in them.

(xv) Some instrumentation linkage companies should provide rapid prototyping services for converting innovations into products.

(b) The report is with the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government.

Withdrawal of Life Support System from terminally ill patients

*48. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Commission's report has recommended the setting up of a three-member panel of reputed medical persons, to clear the decision to withdraw Life Support System from the terminally ill and that patients and their relatives should notify a High Court of the decision, so that the doctor is immune from legal action;

(b) whether the Commission cited several decisions of USA, Britain, Canada and Australia and maintained that withdrawal of Life Support System from terminally ill patients has always been held lawful in all the countries, while euthanasia is and continues to be unlawful; and

(c) whether Government have accepted and implemented the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has examined the recommendation and is not in favour of accepting the same.

Working conditions of women domestic helps

*49. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to lay down rules governing the working conditions of the women domestic helps, who are generally exploited by their employers, particularly in big cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The following action is being taken by the National Commission for Women:

(i) The Commission has already taken cognizance of the issue of exploitation of domestic maids by their employers and the placement agencies and is presently engaged in discussions with the stakeholders regarding the measures that need to be taken in the matter.

(ii) The Commission proposes to constitute a committee to examine the issue relating to Domestic Workers. According to the committee's terms of reference, the Commission is to examine the Delhi Shops and Establishment Act, 1954 with respect to its applicability to domestic workers in the National Capital Territory and to make its recommendations to the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(iii) The above-mentioned committee will also deliberate on the need to draft a comprehensive legislation pertaining to domestic workers.

Besides, the Minister of Labour and Employment has introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.9.2007 a bill titled "The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007".

The Bill to protect women against sexual harassment at workplace, which is on the anvil, also includes domestic helps.

Projects under RGGVY in Andhra Pradesh

*50. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government had sent proposals to cover twenty-two districts under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), at an estimated cost of Rs. 784.75 crores and the Rural Eelctrification Corporation (REC) has, so far, sanctioned schemes for only 17 districts at a cost of Rs. 648.20 Crores.

(b) if so, by when schemes for remaining 5 districts would be sanctioned by REC;

(c) whether actual release of funds from REC is only Rs. 19.80 crores for covering sanctioned schemes for four districts only;

(d) if so, by when sanctioned funds for approved schemes for remaining 13 districts would be released by REC; and

(e) the reasons for delay in releasing funds for already sanctioned schemes?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government had submitted Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 22 district with an outlay of Rs. 781. 78 crore under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). 17 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 648. 16 crore. The balance 5 projects are proposed to be taken up for implementation after approval of the competent authority for sanctioning new projects in the XI-Plan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The funds under RGGVY are released in installments. Andhra Pradesh State Government has already availed an amount of Rs. 286.18 crore against 17 projects under execution in the State. The details are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(e) The eligible reimbursement claims are promptly processed as and when received from the State Government through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).